

In the Specification:

Please amend the abstract of the disclosure as follows:

The present invention relates to the provision of ~~highly~~ reliable article information to customers in relationship to the electronic transaction of secondhand articles. Taking trading in secondhand construction machines as an example, when a ~~e~~construction machine 80 is used, the current location and cumulative operating hours of that machine 80 are monitored regularly or as required and stored as usage history on a ~~database data-base~~ 31. Also, photographs of the ~~e~~construction machine are taken as required while it is in use, and stored as usage history on a ~~database data-base~~ 31. Furthermore, history of the service (~~maintenance, repairs, and inspections~~) of the construction machine 80 is also stored on a ~~database data-base~~ 31. When the ~~e~~construction machine 80 in use is sold as a secondhand article, the current state (~~for example, the current cumulative operating hours~~), usage history, and service history of the construction machine 80 stored in the ~~database data-base~~ 31 is provided to a customer's terminal 60 from the sales server 32 via the Internet. The current state of the ~~e~~construction machine 80 is updated as it is used.